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TM

THE
INCREDIBLE

HULK

SO THIS IS WHAT
ACCEPTANCE
FEELS LIKE!



Lo Ragan



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YOU BET THEY DO-- ESPECIALLY WHEN THERE'S A MOMENTOUS MEANING TO THE CELEBRATION... SUCH AS WHEN A FORMERLY-FEARED MAN-MONSTER BECAME A HERO TO THE WORLD AT LARGE!



ACCEPTANCE



NEW YORK CITY HONORS THE

HULK

STEP FORWARD,
HULK-- AND TAKE
YOUR RIGHTFUL PLACE
AMONG THE RANKS
OF THE WORLD'S
HEROES!

DON'T BE SHY, DOC!

AFTER ALL YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH, YOU'VE EARNED THIS!

GOOD DAY THIS IS DAN RATHER SPEAKING TO YOU LIVE FROM CENTRAL PARK SOUTH IN THE HEART OF NEW YORK CITY --

-- AS THE **INCREDIBLE HULK**, WHO WAS RECENTLY GRANTED A FULL **PRESIDENTIAL PARDON** FOR PAST ACTS OF DESTRUCTION --

-- MAKES HIS WAY PAST A **MILITARY HONOR GUARD** TOWARDS THE PODIUM WHERE **SUPER-HERODOM ASSEMBLED** WAITS TO WELCOME HIM!

IF YOU SAW IT LAST ISN'T -- AL

FEEL FUNNY NOT TO HAVE THE ARMY SHOOTING AT YOU, DOC? HEY, LOOK AT WHO'S COMMANDING THEM!

COMPANY ATTENTION!

GENERAL THADDEUS "THUNDER-BOLT" ROSS

I TRUST THERE'S NO LONGER ANY ENMITY BETWEEN THE HULK AND THE HULK-HUNTER, SIR?

NOT SO LONG AS YOUR BRAIN REMAINS IN COMMAND OF THE BRUTE'S BODY, BANNER!

WHILE IT DOES, I'LL ACCEPT YOU, LIKE ALL THE REST!

NEED I SAY THAT
WE ARE WITNESSING
HISTORY IN THE
MAKING HERE TODAY?

FOR YEARS THE
WORLD AT LARGE HAS
LIVED IN FEAR OF THE
GAMMA-SPAWNED MON-
STER KNOWN AS THE
HULK!

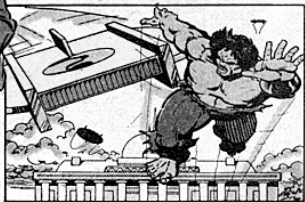


THEN A VILLAINOUS
SUPER-GROUP CALLING
THEMSELVES THE U-FOES
TELECAST THEIR CAPTURE
OF THE NEW, INTELLIGENT
HULK... AND, FOR PERHAPS
THE FIRST TIME, THE JADE
GIANT APPEARED TO
HUMANITY AS AN
UNDERDOG!

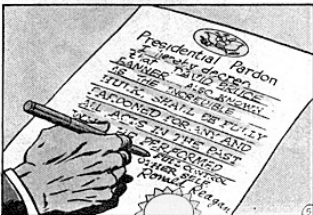
"THE HULK --
POSSESSED NOW OF
THE INTELLECT OF DR.
BRUCE BANNER, ONE
OF THE NATION'S
FOREMOST PHYSICISTS
-- TRIUMPHED OVER
THE U-FOES... AND
SOON AFTER
PETITIONED THE
PRESIDENT FOR
AMNESTY!



"HIS PLEA WAS ADVANCED
BY AMERICA'S
SUPERHEROES, WHO HAD
BECOME CONVINCED THAT
THE GREEN GOLIATH
WOULD NOW BE A FORCE
FOR GOOD! THE HULK
QUICKLY HAD A CHANCE
TO PROVE IT, AS HE
HELPED DEFEAT A
MYSTERIOUS INVASION
FLEET WHICH ATTACKED
THE NATION'S CAPITOL!



"THEN, WITH A STROKE
OF THE PRESIDENTIAL
PEN, THE PARDON WAS
GRANTED, WITH THE
RESULT THAT THE
WORLD'S FEAR AND
LOATHING OF THE HULK
WAS ERASED...



... AND IN ITS PLACE CAN AN
OUTPOURING OF FORGIVENESS AND
ACCEPTANCE, CULMINATING IN
TODAY'S CEREMONY AT CENTRAL
PARK!

COME ABOARD, BIG FELLOW!
I'VE WAITED A LONG TIME FOR
THIS DAY!

YOU AND ME
BOTH, DR.
RICHARDS!

THE HULK--ONCE A
HERO--IS NOW A
HERO AGAIN!

UH, MR. THOR
CAN I MAKE THE
PRESENTATION
NOW?

AYE,
VERILY!

DOCTOR BRUCE BANNER--
HULK-- I'M SURE I SPEAK
FOR THE ENTIRE WORLD WHEN
I SAY THAT IT GIVES ME GREAT
PLEASURE --

-- TO PRESENT YOU WITH
THIS KEY TO THE CITY...
A SMALL TOKEN... WELL,
NOT SO SMALL... OF OUR
FEELINGS TOWARD YOU!

I'M ONLY SORRY FOR
ALL THE DAMAGE I
WROUGHT UPON NEW
YORK IN THE PAST,
MR. MAYOR.

TUSH! THE
TOURIST TRADE
NEVER EVEN
NOTICED!

LET THE
WORLD BEE
THE KEY, DR.
BANNER!

GO AHEAD
HULK! DON'T
BE SHY!

WELL, I AM SOME-
WHAT EMBARRASSED BY
THIS OUTPOURING OF
ACCEPTANCE...

CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

THERE'S
MORE TO COME,
HULK!

THE WHOLE
COUNTRY WANTS
TO WELCOME
YOU!

MORE THAN
ONE MERE
COUNTRY,
COMRADE--
THE WHOLE
WORLD!

YES, AND
BEYOND!

AND, AS IF TO UNDERSCORE THE HEROES' WORDS, THE CROWD ARMED-LED CRIES OUT AS ONE...

HURRAY, HULK!



BUT NOT EVERYONE IN THE CROWD REJOICES...

THIS IS A SAD DAY FOR THIS CITY-- HONORING A MENACE LIKE THE HULK! NEXT THING YOU KNOW THEY'LL BE HONORING SPIDER-MAN!



SPEAKING OF WHOM...

THERE'S JOLLY J. JONAH JAMESON DOWN THERE-- GLOWERING AS USUAL!



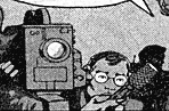
HE PROBABLY HATES THIS HULK HERO-WORSHIP, BUT I'LL BET HE'LL BE GLAD TO GET PETER PARKER'S PIX OF THE EVENT!

SAY, ISN'T THAT BARBARA WALTERS DOWN THERE INTERVIEWING ATTORNEY FRANKLIN NELSON?

MISTER NEWSON, I UNDERSTAND THAT IT WAS YOUR WAW OFFICE OF NEWSON AND MURDOCK THAT DREW UP THE HULK'S AMNESTY PETITION?



WELL, I RESEARCHED PAST PRECEDENTS FOR PRESIDENTIAL PARDONS-- BUT MY PARTNER--



MATT MURDOCK-- DRAFTED THE ACTUAL DOCUMENT.

MATT'S HERE SOMEWHERE...

INDEED I AM, FOGGY...



UP HERE WHERE THE NOISE MADE BY THE CROWD CAN'T PLAY HAVOC WITH MY RADAR SENSES!

BUT THANKS FOR GIVING ME CREDIT, OLD FRIEND!



AND NOW I YIELD THE PODIUM TO DR. REED RICHARDS, LEADER OF THE WORLD-FAMED FANTASTIC FOUR!

THANK YOU, MR. MAYOR!

I'VE KNOWN DR. BRUCE BANNER FOR MANY YEARS, FIRST AS A BRILLIANT PHYSICIST --

-- AND THEN AS THE MAN TRAGICALLY TRANSFORMED INTO A MONSTER AS THE RESULT OF ONE OF HIS OWN EXPERIMENTS.

BUT THE HULK WAS ALWAYS A RATHER UNUSUAL "MONSTER" -- MORE MISUNDERSTOOD THAN MURDEROUS, CHILDLIKE RATHER THAN MINDLESS...

AND I FEEL I SHOULD ADD, DR. RICHARDS, THAT AT ONE TIME THE HULK WAS A HERO -- AN AVENGER... ONE OF OUR FOUNDING MEMBERS IN FACT!

HEY, DOC -- YOU GONNA LET THE AVENGERS CLAIM THE HULK AS ONE OF THEIR OWN? THE GREEN GUY'S A DEFENDER NOW!

I AM NO LONGER SURE, HELL-CAT.

THE OLD HULK WAS A MEMBER OF OUR NON-TEAM.

THIS NEW HULK MAY NOT SO READILY FIT IN.

IT IS NOT AS THE MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS THAT DR. STEPHEN STRANGE TAKES HIS PLACE ON THE FIGHTING...

... AS BRUCE BANNER'S PERSONAL PHYSICIAN, I ATTEST TO THE FACT THAT THE SAVAGE, HULK SIDE OF HIS PERSONA IS ERASED COMPLETELY!

FAREWELL, MY COLOSSAL COMRADE-IN-ARMS!

WHO'S THIS DR. STRANGER I NEVER HEARD OF HIM?

YEAH HULK!

I DID, BUT I THOUGHT HE WAS SOME KINDA OCCULT FREAK FROM GREENWICH VILLAGE!

THEN A HUSH FALLS OVER THE CROWD. ALL EYES STARE UP AT THE DAVE. IT IS THE GREEN GOLIATH'S OWN TURN TO SPEAK.

MY FRIENDS, MY FELLOW SUPER-POWERED BEINGS, AND ALL THE REST OF YOU, THE NORMAL PEOPLE EVERYWHERE...

I-I'VE FOUGHT SOME OF YOU... BUT I SWEAR TO YOU THAT, FROM THIS MOMENT ON, THE NEW HULK WILL DO EVERYTHING IN HIS POWER TO ATONE FOR ALL THE HARM THE OLD HULK CAUSED IN THE PAST!

YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO BE SORRY FOR, DOC. IT WAS THE WORLD THAT MADE THE HULK A MONSTER!

GOSH, I WISH CAPTAIN MARVEL HAD LIVED TO SEE THIS DAY!

ANOTHER FACE IN THE CROWD SHARES RICK JONES'S MISERABLE MOOD...

YOU PROBABLY DON'T EVEN SEE JIM WILSON DOWN HERE, DOC--

-- BUT YOUR ONETIME PARTNER IS HERE PULLIN' FOR YOU TO MAKE IT, LIKE YOU HELPED ME MAKE IT ONCE!

THERE IS A FANTARE THEN...

NEW YORK CITY HONOR

HULK

AWRIGHT, MOVE ASIDE -- MAKE SOME ROOM UP THERE ON THE STAGE!

HOLY COW! WHATEVER THE THING'S CARRYING MUST WEIGH TONS!

TEN TONS, TA
BE PRECISE?
PURE ADAMAN-
TIUM, THE
TOUGHEST
METAL KNOWN
TA MAN--

-- INTO ONE OUT-
TA-SIGHT STATUE--
IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF--
OF EARTH'S NIGHTEST HERO,
SCULPTED BY MY LADY-
FRIEND, ALICIA
MASTERS!

-- SCULPTED
WITH A
VERBANIUM
BLADE
DONATED BY
BY THE
KINGDOM OF
WAKANDA--

TAA-
GAAA!

IT'S... BEAUTIFUL!

SO THAT'S WHY YOU HAD
ME SPEND THE LAST FEW
DAYS AT THE BAXTER
BUILDING, MS. MASTERS!

EVERYTIME I
TOUCHED YOU, DR.
BANNER, I SENSED
THE NOBILITY IN
YOUR SOUL!

BEN GRIMM, I'M
SURE IT WAS YOU
WHO INSPIRED
THIS!

Y'KNOW, DOC, IT
FEELS FUNNY TA
BE SHAKIN' THE
HAND OF ONE OF
THE ONLY GUYS--

-- WHO WUZ EVER ABLE TA CLOBBER
MRS. GRIMM'S BLUE-EYED BOY, BENDY!
PUT 'ER THERE, PAL!

AMIDST THE PLEASURE OF THIS GREAT EVENT, THERE IS ALSO BUSINESS BEING CONDUCTED.



I DON'T LIKE THIS, FURY!
IF SOME SUPER-VILLAIN
SHOULD CHOOSE THIS MOMENT
TO ATTACK THE HULK, THE
WHOLE CITY WOULD SUFFER!



S.H.I.E.L.D.'S GOT A SECURITY CORDON
'ROUND THE BIG APPLE TIGHTER'N AN OLD
MAID'S CORSET, ROSS! *

* S.H.I.E.L.D. - SUPREME HEADQUARTERS INTERNATIONAL LAW-ENFORCE-
MENT DIVISION -- AL

DUM DUM'D RIGHT, GENERAL -- AN'
PECCIDES, IF ALL THESE SUPER HEROES
ASSEMBLED CAN'T HANDLE SOME
SUPER THREAT, THEN THERE AIN'T
NOBODY WHO CAN!



HOW'M I DOING?
JUST FINE, ED
WHO GOES NEXT?
SOME VERY SPECIAL 'SUPER BEINGS'!
WHO COULD BE MORE SPECIAL THAN US!



SUDDENLY,
HEY! THE AIR'S ON FIRE!
THIS YOUR IDEA, TORCH?



DON'T PANIC, EVERYONE!
THE GLOW IS ONLY A
SIDE-EFFECT OF

... BLACK BOLT AND THE
UNCANNY INHUMANS HAVING
BEEN TELEPORTED FROM THE BLUE
AREA OF THE MOON TO EARTH
BY THEIR DOG, LOCKJAW!



GOSH, THAT'S WHAT THE VISION MUST'VE MEANT WHEN HE SAID THERE'D BE FOLKS FROM "OTHER REALMS" HERE TODAY!



BLACK BOLT LAYS HIS HAND UPON THE HULK



CONFERRING THE GIFT OF FRIENDSHIP EVER-LASTING

YOU ARE CRYSTAL, THE ELEMENTAL INHUMAN. AREN'T YOU?



YES, WIFE OF QUICKSILVER. I SPEAK FOR BLACK BOLT -- LIEGE-LORD OF THE INHUMANS -- IN EXPRESSING HIS JOY AT YOUR CHANGED FORTUNE

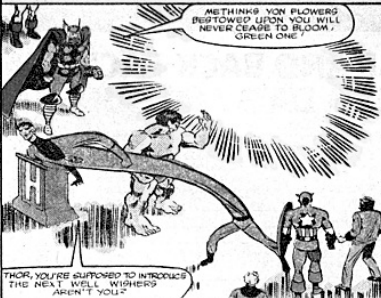
AS A SYMBOL OF YOUR REBIRTH AS A HERO, WE WISH YOU TO HAVE THESE FLOWERS -- THE FIRST TO BE GROWN BY THE INHUMAN IN OUR NEW HOME ON THE BLUE AREA OF THE MOON.



YOU ARE HONORED INDEED, HULK!



THEN, AS QUICKLY AS THEY CAME, THE INHUMAN'S FLEE EARTH'S POLLUTED ATMOSPHERE (WHICH ONCE NEARLY DECATIMATED THEIR RACE) AND RETURN TO THEIR LUNAR HOME



THOR, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO INTRODUCE THE NEXT WELL WISHERS AREN'T YOU?

METHINKS YON FLOWERS BESTOWED UPON YOU WILL NEVER CEASE TO BLOOM, GREEN ONE!



AYE, IN TRUTH I AM, THOU ART A MORTAL, HULK

THE MIGHTIEST OF MORTALS, MAYHAPS

BUT THOU HAST VISITED IN THY TIME, REALMS BEYOND MOST MORTALS' KEN

THE BEINGS OF ONE SUCH REALM --
REGARDED AS GODS IN ONE ERA OF
EARTH'S MYTHOLOGY -- WOULD NOW
HONOR THEE!



HE IS THOR, GOD OF THUNDER! A WHIRL OF
HIS MAJESTIC URU MALLET...

... AND THE
CROWD ASSEMBLED
LEARNS WHY!

THUNDER AND
LIGHTNING!

AND
GALE FORCE
WINDS?!

WH-WHAT'S
HE DOING?!

THOR IS OPENING A PORTAL
IN TIME AND SPACE, A DIMEN-
SIONAL DOOR BETWEEN OUR
REALM...



AND THE FAR-
FABLED KINGDOM
OF ASGARD,
HOME OF THE
NORSE GODS

ON THE GLORIOUS
RAINBOW BRIDGE THEY
STAND ASSEMBLED --
EVERY ONE A NAME
OUT OF LEGEND!

YOU HAVE FOUGHT
AGAINST SOME, BESIDE
OTHERS, YET TO A BODY
THEY DO HONOR YOU
AS A WARRIOR AMONGST
WARRIORS.



A WARRIOR?
SOMEHOW I NEVER
THOUGHT OF MYSELF
AS THAT!

BUT I AM
HONORED, THOR,
AND OVERWHELMED!

HEY! NOW WHAT'S
HAPPENING?

A LIGHT-- BRIGHTER
THAN THE SUN!

FEAR NOT! 'TIS MERELY
THE ALL-FATHER, ODIN,
ADDING HIS SALUTE TO
ALL THE REST.

BUT I
CAN'T SEE
HIM!

'TIS NOT
METE FOR
MORTALS TO
GAZE UPON
MY GIRE'S
VISAGE!

'TIS ENOUGH TO
KNOW THAT
HE DIDST HONOR
THEE!

THERE ARE
OTHERS, HULK,
WHO WOULD
EXPRESS THEIR
PEACE WITH
YOU.

PRINCE
NAMOR, THE
MIGHTY SUB-
MARINER!

AYE, SOVEREIGN OF
PAIR ATLANTIS, THE
KINGDOM NEATH THE
SEVEN SEAS!

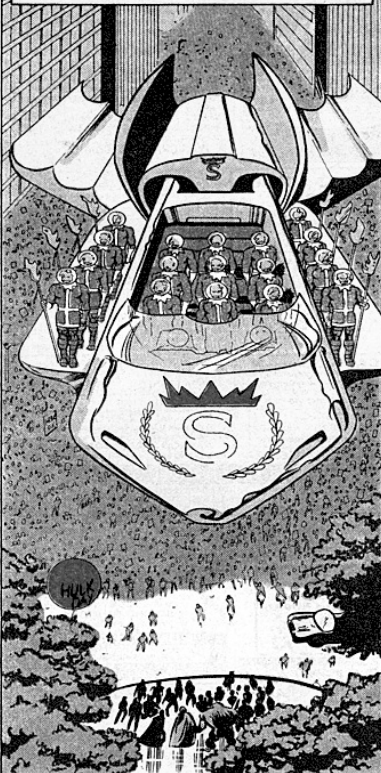
YOU AND I HAVE FOUGHT AS ENEMIES, HULK, AND
AS ALLIES, BOTH FOR AND AGAINST MANKIND!

I DID COME
TO KNOW YOU
AS A MIGHTY
FOG, AND A
FAITHFUL
FRIEND!

NOW LET ALL
ATLANTIS
SING THY
PRAISES, ON
THIS, YOUR
DAY OF
ACCEPTANCE!

MIGHTY LUNGS BLAST A CONVOLUTED
CONCH HORN.

... AND A BLUE-SKINNED CONTINGENT OF ATLANTEANS RISES UP OUT OF NEW YORK'S EAST RIVER AND PROCEEDS TO THE PARK ALONG EAST 54TH STREET!



THE CONCH IS LEFT AS A TOKEN OF FRIENDSHIP.

THEN, FROM THE MANY NATIONS OF EARTH THEY STEP FORTH... HEROES ALL, BRINGING DIPLOMATIC GREETINGS TO THE HULK!

ALL WAKANDA REJOICES, FRIEND HULK!



THE BLACK PANTHER.

MAY ALLAH GUIDE THEE GREEN ONE!



THE ARABIAN KNIGHT!

WE'VE GOT A LOT IN COMMON, YOU AND I, HULK!



FROM CANADA -- SABRATCH AND THE REST OF ALPHA-FLIGHT!

THIS IS A NEW BEGINNING, WARRIOR!



FROM JAPAN -- SUNFIRE!

IRELAND'S LUCKY LADY -- SHAMROCK!



'TIS EASY BEIN' GREEN!

VAVA CON DIOS, HULK!



FROM SOUTH AMERICA -- DEFENSOR!

AS A MONSTER, YOU TAUGHT ME ABOUT HUMANITY!



FROM ISRAEL -- SABRA!

OUR GOVERNMENT FORBIDS US TO COME, HULK.



BUT, WHEN WE SAID WE WOULD COME WITH OR WITHOUT THEIR SANCTION, TO HONOR ONE WHO HAD HELPED SAVE OUR NATION...

...THEY RELENDED.



FROM ENGLAND -- CAPTAIN BRITAIN!



YOU'VE A LION'S HEART, HULK!

AND FROM WEST GERMANY -- BLITZKRIEG!



ALL THE WORLD WISHES YOU WELL, DR. BANNER!

FROM THE SOVIET UNION, VANGUARD, DARKSTAR, AND MASTER ORSUS... THE SOVIET SUPER-SOLDIERS!

LOOK! THE SKY'S
EXPLODING AGAIN!

LIKE
FIREWORKS!

OR THE STARS
COMING OUT IN
DAYLIGHT!

WHAT DOES
IT MEAN?!

"TIS THE
POWER COSMIC
MADE MANIFEST!



I CONGRATULATE YOU, DR. BANNER. WHEN I LAST WE MET, WE WERE BOTH ACCURSED, YOU BY THE *MONSTER* WITH WHOM YOU SHARED YOUR EXISTENCE --

--AND I BY MY INABILITY TO ESCAPE THE CONFINES OF EARTH!

YOU HAVE OVERCOME YOUR CURSE!

I PRAY THE FORCES OF THE COSMOS ONE DAY ALLOW ME TO OVERCOME MINE!

THEN THE SKY-RIDER IS GONE, LEAVING IN HIS PLACE A SILVER STAR...



...OUT OF WHICH EMERGES--THE WATCHER!



I AM PLEDGED NEVER TO INTERFERE IN THE AFFAIRS OF MEN-- ONLY TO OBSERVE.



YET, I HAVE COME TO CHERISH THIS WORLD, AND I COULD NOT ALLOW AN OCCASION SO IMPORTANT TO IT TO PASS UNACKNOWLEDGED.



THUS, I DO NOT FEEL I BETRAY MY OATH TO DELIVER INTO YOUR HANDS... THIS!



THE FACETS ON THE CRYSTAL SHAMMER AND SHIFT. FACES APPEAR AND VANISH. VOICES CALL AND GROW SILENT.

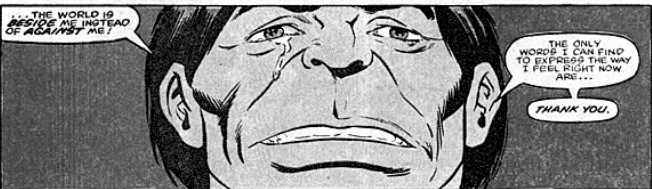




YES, FOR ONCE
IN MY LIFE...



... THE WORLD IS
RESIDING ME INSTEAD
OF AGAINST ME!



THE ONLY
WORDS I CAN FIND
TO EXPRESS THE WAY
I FEEL RIGHT NOW
ARE...

THANK YOU.

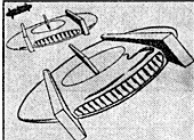
FROM A BALCONY ABOVE THE CHEER-
ING THROG, A STRANGE, BIRD-LIKE
FEMALE GAZES DOWN.

SHE IS BEREET, TECHNO-
ARTIST FROM THE PLANET
KRYLOR.



THOUGH SHE REJOICES
FOR THE HULK, SHE WHO
HAS CHRONICLED HIS
HISTORY FROM AFAR...

IS ALSO SORELY TROUBLED,
AND KNOWS NOT HOW TO EXPRESS
HER UNEASE.



THE SPACECRAFT
THAT ATTACKED
THE HULK AND THE
ASSEMBLED HEROES
OVER THE WHITE
HOUSE WERE
KRYLORIAN
IN DESIGN!



BUT THEY SHOULD *NOT* HAVE
EXISTED, FOR KRYLOR POSSESSES
NO FLEET GAVE THE ONE I CON-
CEPTUALIZED IN ONE OF MY *HULK*
MOVIES!

WHO, THEN, KNEW
ENOUGH OF MY CONCEPT
TO STEAL IT--



--AND USE IT TO
MAKE OF THE HULK...
A HERO?

WHO HYDEOUT
DOES ALL GO
ACCORDING TO PLAN,
MASTER?



UNAWARE THAT THE ENTIRE CEREMONY
IS BEING SINISTERLY SURVEYED FROM
ORBIT, THE SUPER HEROES ARRANGED
PREPARE TO WRAP THINGS UP.







GREEN-SKIN'S GRAB-BAG

THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

ALLEN MILGROM
EDITOR
ANN NICOTRI
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Bill & Sal,

I thought that THE INCREDIBLE HULK #274 was a well-conceived transition issue; no major battles or foes for the Hulk to face, but plenty of development for the Hulk/Bruce Banner's new persona. The stage is now set for a new problem: How long can Bruce Banner maintain control over the Hulk side of his mind and still call upon the geometric increase in strength that comes with the Hulk's increasing anger? Also, how will the Rick Jones/Betty Ross/Bereet sub-plot be resolved?

I was sitting on the edge of my seat when the U-Foes reappeared. With both X-Ray and Ironclad again in control of their powers, you've set the stage for the most spectacular confrontation since HULK #265. But this time you'll have to give us what we want (not just what we need) and what we want is — the reunited U-Foes versus the intelligent Hulk fighting side-by-side with the Fantastic Four!

Glenn Campbell
PO Box 122
Indian Head, MD 20640

Bill does have an FF/U-Foes story in mind, Glenn, but THE INCREDIBLE HULK #276-277 wasn't it. But someday...

Dear Bill and Sal,

How do you do it? Each month you take a character that I used to despise and leave me waiting for thirty days to pass so that I can find out what is going to happen to him. THE INCREDIBLE HULK #274 was, happily, no exception.

I will never forget the look of pity in the Hulk's face on pages 20 and 21. This is a tribute to the fine talent of Sal's majestic art style. Not even Yellowjacket's plight or the death of Phoenix touched me as much as did the Hulk's almost tearful look back with the simple message, "I only want to go home."

Bill, I don't know how long you can continue to write masterpiece upon masterpiece in all your books, but as long as you continue to write them, I'll continue to read them. By the way, how about attempting another book a month. I'd love to see a Rocket Raccoon comic. That was perhaps the most original and just plain fun to read comic episode that I have ever had the pleasure to experience.

Keep up the good work and send my praises along to Al and the rest of the team.

Garvis Reed II
710 Jackson St.
South Charleston, WV 25309

Bill does have a ROCKET RACCOON MINI-SERIES planned, Garvis, but it's on a bit of a back-burner while the Bolsterous One wades his way through his four regular monthly titles, and an all-new, all-action CLOAK & DAGGER MINI-SERIES! To undertake any more at the moment would put the poor lad in a rest home.

Dear Bill, Sal and Al,

Of all the many, myriad mysteries of the Marvel Universe, one truth remains eternally consistent: No matter what Bruce Banner wears, the Hulk always ends up in purple pants! Why?

Dan Carnes
5-B New Haven Apartments
Greenwood, SC 29646

Uh, the effect of Gamma Rays on cotton fibers? Actually, as you can see by this very issue, Daniel, the purple pantaloons are gone, to be replaced by purple short-shorts made of unstable molecules. An improvement?

Dear Bill, Sal, Joe, Al and whoever else is listening,

There's a guy out in California, Jon Cohn, who I've been corresponding with lately and he's a Marvelite all the way, who says he wouldn't be caught dead with anything from the "degrading competition." Me? I'm a middle-of-the-road type fellow. I buy around 90% of your titles and a dozen or so of DC's. Well, I suggested that he buy an issue of the *New Teen Titans*, since it, along with *Warlord*, is the best DC has to offer. He said he'd buy an issue of the *Titans* and, if he liked it, would start collecting it if I'd agree to do the same with the HULK, which I hadn't bought an ish of since early in 1978. I said what the heck, it can't be too bad. And if I don't like it, it's just 60 cents, right? So today I bought an issue of the HULK #274. To put it mildly, you folks knocked me out of my tree! I was expecting to find the same old "dumb mindless brute" that I left 4 years ago, but things have changed, and for the better. Bruce Banner in control of the Hulk? Man-o-man! This hit me like a bolt of lightning from the heavens above. I'm flabbergasted, hence the disorganization of this letter. To flabbergasted you can add bewildered, stunned, dumbfounded, the list goes on. With Banner in control, the Hulk could become the greatest force for good this side of the creator himself. (No, I don't mean Stan Lee!) You people have made a Hulk fan out of me, that's for sure. I'd like to tell you all, especially you Bill, how enthused I am about the "new" Hulk, but I just can't find the proper words. I'm like that sometimes.

Now if you gentlemen will excuse me I think I'll go reread "Home the Hard Way" just for the sheer enjoyment of it! Thanks again gang.

Stan Johnston
P.O. Box 842
Yazoo City, MS 39194

Dear Bill, Sal & Al,

This a strange turn of events, no? The now Banner-brained Hulk is in the exact same situation as his dear cousin, She-Hulk. Hmm... Well, I'm sure glad it happened. It gives you a chance to have them finally meet without the obligatory fight, something that's been put off a bit too long.

Already I wonder what will happen to the old "Hulk Smash" personality. It does seem a bit anxious to reassert itself. I know! You can have Banner with the Hulk's brain, and the Hulk with Banner's brain! No? Not even slightly possible? Okay, so it was a dumb idea! That's why you write the Hulk and I write these letters!

Getting back to the matter at hand: What will Banner do now? I mean, is the Hulk going to wear suits and comb his hair? Will Banner, like She-Hulk, opt to remain green constantly? Will Rick Jones be cured, or will he become a second Hulk?

I know, I know... stay tuned!
As for the mag in general, it seems to be perfect. Great stories and great art.

Darrel Mayette
4677 Monarch Drive
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635

The She-Hulk/Hulk meeting takes place in HULK #282, Darrell (without the obligatory fight scene) and Bruce Banner continues to grapple with the many questions you ask for a whole lot of issues to come.



HE'S AN ANDROID.
SHE'S A MUTANT.
THEY'RE MARRIED
AND THEY FIGHT EVIL.
FROM THE PAGES OF AVENGERS
COME...

VISION
AND THE
SCARLET WITCH
IN THEIR OWN
FOUR-ISSUE
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ON SALE NOW!



BULLPEN BULLETINS

A COUPLE OF THINGS WENT WRONG LAST MONTH...

First, I was so late with the Bullpen Bulletins manuscript that a number of Marvel Comics had to be printed and shipped without it! An ad was inserted in its place at the printer's.

Second, when the Bullpen Page finally got done, it was so late that I couldn't take the time to check it over properly before it went out. As a result, a photo of the Marvel folks in attendance at the wedding of star writer Roger Stern and lovely Carmela Merlo was printed half the size I'd intended, and therefore looked a lot like mud.

HERE'S WHY!

Last month I was on the road for almost three weeks, attending the spectacular San Diego Convention in sunny southern California, and the incredible Chicago Con in the wonderful Windy City. I took my briefcase and a large portfolio, both full of work, along with me... but while I was in San Diego - I admit it - I succumbed to temptation. I spent two whole days plus a stolen afternoon or three relaxing. I played racquetball and lifted weights at the hotel's health spa, I went swimming in the hotel pool, jogging along the scenic waterfront, body surfing at the beach, and partying far into the night. I was joined in these thoroughly irresponsible activities by some of my favorite people - Joe Rubinstein, Jim Starlin and his wife Daina Grazunas, Bill Sienkiewicz, John Byrne and his wife Andrea, Carl Potts and Christie Scheele. It was wonderful - the nearest thing I've had to a vacation in about seven years.

The price for those couple of days off was high. The Bullpen Bulletins did not appear in a number of Marvel titles, and where it did, the photo it carried was naughty but a blur. My fault. All my fault.

WHAT'S BEING DONE...

Well, I've already arranged for several of your favorite Marvel personalities to do guest columns which will appear on this page every once in a while when I think you folks out there need a change of pace - or when I'm in a jam! Also, I'm going to print another picture of Roger and Carmela when I run his guest column. Also, they made me give back my salary for last month...

OKAY, ON WITH NEW BUSINESS!

Did anyone not see the nifty, sixteen-page Marvel Comics Guide to Comic Collecting which was included in every single copy of *The Amazing Spider-Man* #234? From the response we received it's the most popular bonus feature ever offered in a comic book! If you somehow missed it, head for (or write to) the comics specialty shop nearest you. Many of them ordered a bunch of extra copies of *Spider-Man* #234 and of the Guide by itself, and they may still have a few left. If you don't know of any comics specialty shops near you, check the ads in this comic! Many shops and distributors advertise in Marvel publications. Or, write to me. I'll get back

to you with a list of shops in your general area. Speaking of such shops, I'd like to thank the folks from BUSHNINE COMICS, located at 6370 BIRD ROAD, SOUTH MIAMI, FLORIDA 33155 for their help and cooperation, without which we couldn't have published the Collector's Guide. They originated the guide, and did hundreds of thousands of collectors across the country a service by allowing us to publish and widely distribute it. Thanks, folks!

MARVEL TROUNCES WARREN!

Thought you'd like to know that on August 3, 1982 the Bullpen Bombers trashed the Warren Warriors on the softball field by a score of 20 - 1. Our left fielder and manager Robbie Carosella led the attack with five hits in six at bats, including two homers.

Here's the line-up:

RF - Archie Goodwin, Editorial Director of EPIC - 4 for 6; LF - Robbie Carosella, Photostat Operator - 5 for 6; SS - Harry Eisenstein, Mail Clerk - 0 for 5 (but brilliant in the field); 1B - Jim Shooter, Editor-in-Chief - 2 for 5; CF - Ken Feduniewicz, Special Projects Production - 2 for 5; 3B - Mel Yormov, Merchandising Development - 4 for 5; P - John Morrell, Letterer/Correctionist - 4 for 5; 2B - Lance Tookes, Assistant Editor - 4 for 5; SC - Ken Lopez, Production Assistant - 2 for 5

We had 'em all the way!

I HAVE TO MENTION...

...that in San Diego, at their annual awards banquet, our own Archie Goodwin, Editorial Director of EPIC Illustrated Magazine, was honored with the prestigious Inkpot Award, acknowledging his contribution to the comics industry. If you want to see one reason why, buy or borrow a copy of EPIC. It'll convince you. A bunch of other Marvel folks have received Inkpots as well over the years. I'll run a complete list here sometime soon.

A WEEK LATER...

In Chicago, at the Con, disaster nearly struck! You see Spider-Man was there, live and in person to give away free copies of the latest issues of *The Amazing Spider-Man* to the fans in attendance. The trouble was the shipment of comics never arrived! Fortunately, yours truly happened to bump into old Webhead in his hour of need, and I just happened to be carrying a hundred or so coupons, each good for a free subscription to any Marvel title. I promptly turned the coupons over to our hero, who found them an extremely effective substitute for his missing freebie comics. No problem. Now he owes me one. Just goes to show you, the Boy Scouts are right. Always be prepared.

IT'S ABOUT TIME...

...that I gave Eliot Brown some credit. He's the guy who typesets this thing (and almost every other thing) every month... and he does a darn good job, and we're grateful. But, typesetting

isn't his only trick. He's also our resident photographer. He took the stunning photo which graced the cover of *Dazzler* #21 - as well as most of the other photos that have appeared in Marvel Comics in recent years. If a photo isn't credited otherwise, chances are it's Eliot's work. I should mention, too, that Eliot is our resident technical expert. If something's broken, he can fix it - if something's complicated, he can explain it - if you've got a problem, he can solve it. He draws - and he's especially good at technical drawing, like blueprints, diagrams, cutaways, mechanical drawing - he inks, he colors, he designs, he does boardwork, and other stuff, too, that I can't think of. Best of all, he's a real trouper who's stayed here at the office all night many times helping desperate artists and editors make deadlines. He's probably blushing now, as he typesets this - he's such a humble guy!

Well, Jim, I just don't know what to say, but I think that I'd like to take this singular opportunity to thank all the little people whose countless I've ridden; when I think of Marvel Comics, the image of selfless camaraderie almost, almost brings a tear to my eye, the hours of bonhomie, shoulder to shoulder... I can't go on - well, yes I could, but Jim is sliding his forefinger across his throat. Huan. Thanks, Jim. *Art R. Brown*

But I couldn't pass this opportunity to let him know he's appreciated! Hoorey, Eliot!

CONGRATULATIONS...

...are in order for my former secretary Franki Sienkiewicz. Being my secretary has got to be the toughest job in the place (fled, maybe, with the Traffic Manager job, which Virginia Romita handles so well). It involves representing Marvel to the world and the freelancers, handling an enormous workload including tons of memos, letters and complicated projects, all of them urgent and important, supervising three or more office assistants and putting up with me. Franki took it all in stride - so well, in fact, that she received an impressive promotion. She's now Administrative Manager of International Licensing. Whow! I feel like I should salute even when I just write that title! I think what it means is, that she's in charge of Europe... or maybe just NATO. Congratulations, Franki!

MY NEW SECRETARY...

Pardon me, my new Administrative Assistant - the job grew a lot while Franki had it, because she was always eagerly shouldering more responsibility, so we had to change the title - is Lea Sapp. Lea is doing a great job and is already making me forget about 'whatsame. Heh, heh. Just kidding, Franki.

GOTTA GO!

I think I see some NATO bombers headed this way!

Best,

Art R. Brown



MARVELOUS
CENTER-FIELDER
KEN FEDUNIEWICZ
VIEW OF
THE MARVEL
COMICS
IS
WARREN
PUBLISHING
GAME!

